



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
1st Battalion, 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard)
216 Jackson Avenue
Fort Myer, Virginia 22211



11 June 2010

Memorandum for: Family, Soldiers and Leaders of 1st Battalion, 3^d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard)

First and foremost, I am humbled and honored by the opportunity to serve in the ranks of this great organization. Respect is earned – this organization already has mine – in time, I will earn theirs through my daily actions, my commitment and my selfless service to commanding and leading this Battalion with all the energy that I have.

As you already know, The Old Guard's mission set is demanding and there is no other unit charged with the solemn and most principled responsibility of honoring our Nation's Heroes that have made the ultimate sacrifice – past, present and the future. With this responsibility comes day-to-day requirements that are enduring and require significant preparation to ensure that the standard and proper respect is achieved. My commitment to the Soldiers and Families of 1st Battalion is simple; we, as an organization must balance the requirements of every mission, achieving the standard and never lose sight of the Soldiers executing those missions. **Let me highlight three points that amplify the importance of "Our" Soldier, DA Civilian and Family Readiness.**

First, our Battalion's unique mission set enables our Leaders and Soldiers opportunities that we as a team must not underestimate. With our Nation and Army remaining committed in Iraq and Afghanistan, the ability to live and exercise "quality dwell" (time home / not deployed) is realistic while assigned to The Old Guard. Regardless if you have served and deployed in a Brigade Combat Team or if this is your first duty assignment, the time will come when Soldiers will deploy or deploy again into harm's way. 1st Battalion is executing its mission essential tasks everyday in Arlington National Cemetery, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall and other locations within the National Capital Region. **Additionally, Charlie Company is continuing its combat mission in Iraq.** It is a fact that our daily pace is high and our standards are demanding because our mission requires it. **However, when we are not executing our mission, we must never under-estimate the value of the time spent with our friends and families. This is what defines "Quality Dwell" for me and my family.**

Second, the balance of a Soldier's professional life and personal life is without a doubt, a daily challenge and most vital aspect of remaining mentally and physically ready. At the end of a day or at the end of a career, a Soldier has his family and his reputation. My priorities are to my family, to my Unit and the Army and then myself. Whether or not a Soldier is married or single, this balance between the professional and personal life is critical to the stability and daily maintenance of the mind, body and soul.

Third, we have to communicate. I don't believe that an organization can "over-communicate" enough, if the information being shared is relevant, accurate and received in a timely manner. As a Battalion, our ability to share information will occur through our established Family Readiness Groups. As these develop, I encourage all to take full advantage of what we as an organization and the Army can offer.

Finally, our goal is to create a climate that fosters both professional and personal excellence. I am confident that this goal can be achieved if we work together as a team. This is a great profession – let us embrace all aspects of it, so that success can be reached by all.

Washington's Own – Strength and Honor

//Original Signed//
BRANDON S. ROBBINS
LTC, IN
Commanding

//Original Signed//
WILLIAM S. WILDER
CSM, USA
Battalion Command Sergeant Major